

85. (New) The fabric assembly of claim 84 wherein the plurality of plates comprise stainless steel.

86. (New) The fabric assembly of claim 84 wherein the substantially uniform thickness of the plurality of plates is no greater than 2 mils.

87. (New) The fabric assembly of claim 84 wherein the plurality of plates are equilateral hexagons.

88. (New) The fabric assembly of claim 87 wherein the equilateral hexagons are identical.

89. (New) The fabric assembly of claim 84 wherein the flexible substrate comprises non-woven polyurethane and nylon synthetic leather.

90. (New) The fabric assembly of claim 84 wherein the plate thickness is approximately equal to the gap width.

91. (New) The fabric assembly of claim 84 further comprising an adhesive layer affixing the plurality of plates to the top surface of the flexible substrate.

92. (New) The fabric assembly of claim 91 wherein the adhesive layer is polyurethane adhesive.

93. (New) A fabric assembly comprising:
a flexible substrate having a top surface;
a plurality of polymeric resin plates having substantially uniform thickness of approximately 5 to 20 mils, the plurality of plates affixed to the

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top surface of the flexible substrate and arrayed in a pattern such that a plurality of continuous gaps are defined between adjacent plates, wherein the gaps are approximately uniform in width; and a wire mesh embedded in each plate and completely covered by the top surface by each plate.

94.(New) The fabric assembly of claim 93 wherein the plate thickness is approximately 10 to 12 mils.

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Cont'd* 95.(New) The fabric assembly of claim 93 wherein the gap width is approximately 7 mils.

96.(New) The fabric assembly of claim 93 wherein the polymeric resin comprises epoxy resin.

97.(New) The fabric assembly of claim 93 wherein the plurality of plates each are shaped as identical equilateral hexagons.

98.(New) The fabric assembly of claim 97 wherein the hexagons are approximately 60 mils in diameter.

99.(New) The fabric assembly of claim 93 wherein the wire mesh is stainless steel.
